HARRIS COMICS

VAMPIRELLA®

HOLY WAR 3 OF 3

MONTHLY 6

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HARRIS COMICS

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HOLY WAR

PART THREE:

DAY OF WRATH!

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THE STORY SO FAR

Despite Mother Superior's warning, Vampirella storms the Anti-Vatican's stronghold—the Palace of Red Glass! Meanwhile, Dixie destroys the control collar, and in the confusion of Vampirella's attack, stumbles into the Black Pope's inner sanctum. Thinking she's found Dixie, Vampirella walks into a trap set by Von Kreist.

As a waning wall of sunlight separates Dixie from the evil Black Pope, Vampirella is crucified on the wall with Von Kreist ready to carve her up.

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"AND HE WAS BURIED, AND DESCENDED INTO HELL."

"THE QUEEN OF HELL, WHOSE NAME IS LILITH, APPEARED TO HIM, AND HE WAS SORE AFRAID. AND SHE SPAKE TO HIM, SAYING--"

YOU, WHO HAVE BETRAYED ALL YOU KNOW AND LOVE.

I CALL YOU CHILD, FOR IN MY IMAGE HAVE YOU BEEN REBORN.

I.N.R.I

TO EACH AGE IS BORN A NEW RACE OF VAMPIRE, REPLACING THE OLD, FOR WE ARE THE SHADOW OF MAN, AND MUST GROW WITH HIM.

IN THIS NEW ERA OF THE GOD-SON THAT YOUR ACTIONS HAVE BIRTHED, YOU SHALL BE LORD AND FATHER OF SHADOWS BEYOND ALL OTHERS.

"GO FORTH IN THE NEW AGE OF THE LAMB. LEARN WHAT NEW RULES GOVERN YOU. SLAUGHTER THE LAMB, IF YOU CAN."

GO FORTH, AND TURN THE NIGHT INTO FEAR!

" AND ON THE THIRD NIGHT, HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD— "

THIS... *CAN'T* BE TRUE...

FRIGHTENING, *ISN'T* IT? IN 2,000 YEARS, YOU'RE THE *FIRST* TO READ THAT.

" YOU WON'T LIVE TO *REPEAT* IT.

IN HIS LIBRARY, THE BLACK POPE ALLOWED DIXIE FATTONI A GLIMPSE OF HIS PAST, WHILE THEY WAITED FOR THE END OF LIGHT.

AT 16, AND IGNORANT OF THE FUTURE, SHE THOUGHT SHE HAD SEEN MORE HORROR THAN MOST WOULD EVER KNOW IN THEIR LIVES.

ALL I KNEW OF VAMPIRELLA WAS THAT SHE WAS HUNTED BY THE MONSTER *VON KREIST.*

FORTY YEARS AGO, I WAS DIXIE FATTONI, WHEN VON KREIST DRAGGED ME LIKE AN ANIMAL THROUGH THESE CATACOMBS.

TODAY I STALK THEM WITH THE SISTERHOOD OF THE RED NUNS, PRAYING GOD AND OUR SPECIAL TRAINING WILL SEE US THROUGH.

I'VE GIVEN UP ON TRYING TO KILL YOU, VAMPIRELLA.

YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE FOREVER!

THE BAD NEWS: SO AM I.

I'M GOING TO CARVE YOU - OVER - AND OVER -

- FOR THE REST OF OUR LONG LONG LIVES

I ALWAYS WANTED A HOBBY.

10 YEARS IN THE FUTURE, I JUMPED FROM HELL ON EARTH TO 30 YEARS IN THE PAST.

MY FAITH IS WEAK. I MARCH THROUGH MY PAST, AND I FEAR...

MY ROLE TODAY MAY NOT BE A SLAYER OR AVENGER, BUT WITNESS ONCE AGAIN--

--TO THE SECOND FALL OF MAN ON EARTH, AND THE END OF VAMPIRELLA.

YOU! YOU DON'T BELONG IN THE ANTI-VATICAN!

KILL THEM!

VAMPIRES. WE'RE ARMED FOR THEM, WITH THE OLDEST KNOWLEDGE AND THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY.

SATOR ALTITHRONUS, IS AQUA BENEDICTUS...

LASER SIGHTS BURN CROSSES INTO THEM, PINNING THEM WITH TERROR SHARPER THAN ANY BLADE.

COMPUTERIZED, THE GUNS AUTOFIRE, WHEN SENSORS SEE THE TARGET IS FROZEN IN ITS TRACKS.

SOME OLD WAYS REMAIN THE BEST.

THE STAKE IS STILL THE FINISHER OF CHOICE. GOD'S BLESSING STILL TURNS ANY WATER HOLY.

EVEN WHAT'S IN THE FILTHY PLASMA MUCK OF THIS PLACE.

--UT HOC LIBERA NOS AB OMNIBUS MALIS.

AAAAAAAAAA

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*

THEY DIE, SENT BACK TO HELL TO AWAIT THEIR IMMINENT RESURRECTION. WHAT WE DO CHANGES NOTHING.

I DON'T RECALL AN OCEAN OF BLOOD PLASMA LAST TIME.

AH, SHE SHOWS HER TEETH.

YOU'LL BE SUCH A *TAME* PET WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU.

KRAK

PERHAPS THE WHITE BISHOP WAS RIGHT.

AAARRGH!

PERHAPS WE *CAN* BUMP THIS DETAIL AND THAT, LITTLE THINGS, UNTIL THE PAST SHIFTS SLIGHTLY.

AND THE FUTURE SHIFTS TO A NEW TRACK.

FINISH THEM, *EVERY* LAST ONE. NOT *ONE* ESCAPES, DO YOU *UNDER-STAND?*

WHEN YOU'RE *DONE*, GET *OUT*. GET VAMPIRELLA OUT *TOO*, IF YOU SEE HER.

WAIT. I'LL COME *WITH* YOU.

NO. DO AS YOU'RE *TOLD*.

LEAD GOOD LIVES.

GOD, IT IS SAID, IS IN THE DETAILS.

BUT I HAVE NO FAITH IN THE LITTLE THINGS.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A *WAR* OUT THERE.

THEY'RE *COMING* FOR YOU.

THAT? NO THE *RED NUNS* ARE DOING MY *HOUSEKEEPING*. I *LET* THEM, NOW AND THEN.

TOO *MANY* OF MY FLOCK GROW *LAZY*, AND *COM-PLACENT*.

FIAT LUX!

TECHNOLOGY AGAIN: A FLASH OF ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT, STRONG AND MERCILESS, TO BOIL THE EYES OF MOST VAMPIRES, AND CRISP THEIR FLESH.

EEARGHH!

BETTER TO WEED THEM OUT NOW, **BEFORE** THE APOCALYPSE. MOTHER SUPERIOR'S NO THREAT TO **ME**.

YOU'RE THE ONE I WAS **WARNED** ABOUT.

DON'T TOUCH ME!

HA! YOU **ARE** DANGEROUS!

TRUST ME, IF YOU KNEW WHAT'S **COMING** FOR THIS MISERABLE LITTLE DUNGHEAP, YOU WOULDN'T FIGHT SO HARD TO **STAY** IN IT.

I KNOW!

BUT HE IS NOT ORDINARY, AND AS MAGNETIC NEEDLES PIERCE HIM, TO DISORIENT AND DULL HIS SENSES, I CAN'T CONTROL MY LOATHING.

FFFT FFFT FFFT

YOU BROUGHT HELL DOWN ON US!

MY SISTER, MY FATHER, MY FRIEND, MY ALLIES, MY FUTURE, MY WORLD—

... I WANT HIM TO TASTE MY DESPAIR AND TO CHOKE ON IT.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE? HOW DID YOU DO THIS?

HE IS THE FACE OF THE DEVIL.

YOU STOLE IT ALL, YOU BASTARD!

MOM?

GET OUT!

HE IS THE BEAST OF THE APOCALYPSE.

DIE, VAMPIRE!

THE CHRISM, THE HOLY OIL, WOULD FRY HIS FOLLOWERS AT TOUCH, BUT ONLY PAINS AND ENRAGES HIM.

I'M THE OUTCOME OF YOUR EVIL, SPAT BACK TO KILL YOU AND YOUR NIGHTMARE WORLD TO COME.

I WANT TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING, PUT A NAME AND HISTORY TO MY FACE, AND SCALD HIM WITH THE DEPTH OF MY RAGE...

OH, SORRY. DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

REVEREND MOM TURNED THE PLASMA TO HOLY WATER. LIKE DIPPING VAMPIRES IN NAPALM.

SHE'S *HERE?* *WHERE?*

WE'RE *LEAVING*, VAMPIRELLA. WE HAVE ORDERS TO TAKE YOU *WITH*...

WHERE?

OKAY, OKAY. IT'S YOUR CALL.

FORTY YEARS I'VE WAITED TO RETURN TO THIS ROOM, TO TAKE FROM *YOU* WHAT YOU TOOK FROM ME--*EVERYTHING!*

YOU DON'T *GET* THE FUTURE *THIS* TIME!

OF *COURSE* I DO. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I *AM.*

I KNOW. THE *CHOSEN* OF LILITH, *FIRST* OF THE BREED, *SPARED* THE FRAILTIES OF LESSER VAMPIRES. I KNOW *ALL* YOUR SECRETS!

I *CAN* KILL YOU, *JUDAS ISCARIOT!*

WHO TOLD YOU?

A WOODEN STAKE? THAT'S A BIT PROSAIC.

NOTHING IS LESS SO!

THE CROSS.

A PIECE OF THE ONE TRUE CROSS!

"I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE. THE STENCH OF HIS BLOOD IS ALL OVER IT.

HE SHOULD HAVE BROKEN FREE, HE COULD HAVE-- BUT HE DIED!"

BECAUSE YOU PUT HIM THERE!

YOU SOLD HIM TO THE ROMANS!

YOU THINK I BETRAYED HIM? I LOVED HIM!

HE BETRAYED ME!

"HE WAS TOO WEAK! THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH, HE SAID. WHAT GOOD WAS THAT TO US?

"ALL HE GAVE US WAS RELIGION."

EEARGHH!

WE NEEDED A REVOLUTION!

I WANTED TO SLAY HIM BEFORE VAMPIRELLA ARRIVED AND DERAIL FATE.

DAMN YOU!

MY FATE, IT SEEMED WAS TO WITNESS, NOT TO ACT...

...TO WITNESS TO THE END...

I *WOULD* HAVE DIED FOR HIM--

I WAS FOOLISH, AND PROUD.

RUN! YOU CAN'T *STOP* HIM! NOTHING WORKS!

I *HAVE* TO, DIXIE. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOU *OUT*.

STAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DAYLIGHT, WHERE HE CAN'T TOUCH YOU.

YOU MUST BE VAMPIRELLA. THE *SUN-WALKER*. QUITE A *REPUTATION*.

VON KREIST TELLS ME YOU'RE HARD TO *KILL*.

ASK THAT SANCTIMONIOUS NUN HOW EASY I AM.

I'VE SLAIN MY SHARE OF VAMPIRES -- AN ENTIRE RACE OF THEM...

"FILTHY LITTLE DIRT-EATING MAGGOTS. AT LILITH'S COMMAND, I EXTERMINATED THEM, TO MAKE ROOM FOR MY BREED.

"WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT."

WHY WOULD I WASTE ANY MORE THOUGHT ON YOU?!

LILITH?

MY MOTHER?

"YOUR--?"

TO EACH AGE IS BORN A NEW RACE OF VAMPIRE, REPLACING THE OLD, FOR WE ARE THE SHADOW OF MAN, AND MUST GROW WITH HIM.

OH! MY! GOD!

THIS AGE CAN'T BE ENDING!

SHE CAN'T HAVE SENT YOU TO REPLACE ME!

YOU CAN'T BE THE FIRST OF THE NEXT BREED!

YOU'RE INSANE!

THOP!

MY MOTHER CHARGED ME WITH DESTROYING ALL THE MONSTERS SHE SPAWNED.

THAT'S YOU, MONSTER!

THE SISTERHOOD HAD OUTFITTED HER WITH A SUIT OF CHASTITY LATEX, AND BOOTS MARKED WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS...

HOW DO I HELP HER? TELL ME!

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT... WHEN I TOLD YOU TO...

BUT CHASTITY AND SYMBOLISM MEANT NOTHING HERE.

I DID WHAT SHE ASKED! I'VE RULED TWO MILLENNIA! I BUILT AN EMPIRE!

I'VE CALLED DOWN THE DAMNED APOCALYPSE!

USE THE STAKE... AND WHEN YOU MEET THE WHITE BISHOP... TRUST HIM...

SHE CAN'T CHANGE HER MIND NOW!

I'LL SEND YOU BACK TO THAT HELLBOUND BITCH IN SHREDS!

NO!

DIXIE! DON'T!

NOW I UNDERSTAND THE BLACK BISHOP'S WARNING.

STOP SQUIRMING, GIRL. I NEED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU.

MOTHER SUPERIOR! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME....

..WATER!

IN A FEW MINUTES, YOU WILL BE ONE OF US, AND THEN YOU CAN KILL VAMPIRELLA!

YOU'RE THE TOOLS LILITH CHOSE TO OVERTHROW ME.

SHE MUST BE SENILE, OR DAFT.

HER BODY'S MADE MOSTLY OF WATER!

YES...

...OF COURSE...

SATOR ALTITHRONUS, IS AQUA BENEDICTUS...

... UT HOC LIBERA NOS AB OMNIBUS MALIS.

THAT WAS WHEN THE MIRACLE OCCURRED.

AT HER URGING, I ACTED, AND MY ACTIONS FINALLY BORE FRUIT.

GRAH!

THE BLESSING MADE HER POISON TO HIM.

AT THE END, I WATCHED DESTINY CHANGE, AND I WAS AT PEACE.

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE

YOU HAVEN'T WON *ANYTHING*...

YOU *CAN'T* STOP...

AND MORE, MY BLOOD WAS NOW BLESSED AS WELL, FOR I WAS DIXIE, AND WHAT CHANGED HER CHANGED ME.

MY BLOOD WAS ALL OVER HIM. IT WAS ALL HE COULD THINK OF.

ROT IN HELL, ISCARIOT.

WOK

...WHAT WILL COME...

IS HE--?

A VAMPIRE *THAT* OLD?

HE'S LUCKY HE WASN'T DUST *LONG* AGO.

THE ANTI-VATICAN CAN'T STAND THE CROSS ANY MORE THAN JUDAS COULD. WE BETTER GET OUT.

SHE'S DEAD, TOO.

FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT SHE WAS MY *MOTHER*. WHO *WAS* SHE?

HOPEFULLY, NO ONE *YOU'LL* EVER KNOW.

SHE TOLD ME SO *MANY* WILD THINGS.

SHE SAID I'D *DIE* IF I CAME HERE.

IT'S FUNNY HOW THINGS WORK OUT.

BLAM

VAMPIRELLA!

AGH

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

I DETEST WAITING.

SO THE BEAST IS DEAD?

MAYBE I'LL SHED A TEAR SOME DAY.

AS I RECALL, WE WERE DISCUSSING CARVING.

START WITH A WING...

...THEN A LITTLE WHITE MEAT...

WHAT WOULD YOU PREFER: BREAST OR THIGH?

BASTARD!

YOU'RE NEXT, LITTLE GIRL...

...DON'T RUSH ME!

I HATE YOU!

OF COURSE.

KA-CRACK!

YOU MURDERED MY SISTER!

YOU MURDERED MY FATHER!

YOU SHOT HIM. ALL I DID WAS PUT A GUN TO YOUR HEAD.

YOU COULD HAVE DIED FOR HIM, BUT YOU WERE WEAK.

DON'T WHINE TO ME ABOUT--

UNGKH!

SHOK!

WHERE ARE MY LEGS? I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I NEED... BLOOD...

STOP THAT! GET AWAY FROM THERE!

I'LL GUT YOU ALIVE AND FEED YOU YOUR OWN INTESTINES!

WHY DON'T YOU SHOOT HER?

MAYBE YOU'RE ASKING YOURSELF, "WHERE'S MY GUN?"

REMEMBER WHAT YOU FORCED ME TO SAY, WHEN YOU MADE ME PULL THE TRIGGER ON MY FATHER?

HE WAS NOT A GREASY WOP, YOU KRAUT SCUMBAG SON OF A BITCH.

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLA BL

FEEL BETTER?

HOW COULD YOU DO THAT? HIS BLOOD?

WHEN I'M WEAK, I NEED BLOOD. BLOOD IS BLOOD, I'M A VAMPIRE.

I WANT TO GO HOME... OR SOMEWHERE... ANYWHERE BUT HERE.

PLEASE.

IT'S OKAY, DIXIE. IT'S OKAY...

...LET'S GO HOME.

THE END

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